

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-20 OMB-01 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 SS-20 HEW-08 DODE-00 L-03 DRC-01

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R 201345Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8488

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1447

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BU

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 1976 PROGRAM GUIDANCE

FOR EUR/EE, S/NM, AND A/AID

REF: STATE 171044

1. ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS FROM REFTEL THAT POST MAY RECEIVE FUNDS UNDER SECTION 482 OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT FOR CUSTOMS TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD AND THAT ARE PLANNED, POST HAS NO FAA FUNDS AS SUCH AND ONLY A RECORD OF LOCAL EXPENDITURES -- A SMALL PORTION OF TOTAL COSTS -- IN CONNECTION WITH THOSE ACTIVITIES. IN VIEW OF THIS FACT AND VERY LIMITED SCOPE OF PROGRAM IN BULGARIA, POST IS LIMITING ITS REPLY TO SECTIONS I AND IV-A OF REFTEL, ONLY PERTINENT SECTIONS UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. STATEMENT OF GOAL: PRIMARY GOAL OF NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IN BULGARIA CONTINUES TO BE TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST BULGARIANS IN INTERDICTING FLOW OF NARCOTICS FROM TURKEY ACROSS BULGARIA TO WESTERN EUROPE. THIS GOAL TAKES ON RENEWED IMPORTANCE WITH RESUMPTION OF OPIUM POPPY GROWING IN TURKEY; BULGARIAN OFFICIALS
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EXPECT NARCOTICS FROM THE NEW TURKISH CROP TO ENTER

BULGARIAN TRANSIT TRAFFIC TOWARD THE END OF THIS YEAR.

3. POLICY AND PROGRAM ISSUES: DRUG ABUSE IS NOT A LOCAL PROBLEM IN BULGARIA. ALTHOUGH AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE SOME CONCERN THAT DRUG USAGE COULD SPREAD AMONG THE YOUNG, POLICE CONTROL OF COUNTRY IS SUCH THAT IT IS UNLIKELY GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS AS SUCH.

4. MAJOR BULGARIAN COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MORE THOROUGH AND SOPHISTICATED CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS AND IN CUSTOMS COOPERATION BETWEEN BULGARIA AND THE UNITED STATES. THE MOTIVE FOR THIS COMMITMENT APPEARS TO BE OFFICIAL BULGARIAN RECOGNITION OF THE WORLD-WIDE NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND A PARTIAL WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION. IN ANY EVENT, US CUSTOMS CONDUCTED A SECOND CUSTOMS TRAINING SEMINAR IN BULGARIA IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR, AND TENTATIVE AGREEMENT FOR A THIRD SUCH SESSION IN MAY OR JUNE OF 1975 HAS BEEN REACHED.

5. ANY US INITIATIVES IN PROMOTING COOPERATION IN NEW AREAS SUCH AS INVESTIGATIVE AND PROSECUTIVE FIELD POSES PROBLEMS AND IT IS QUESTIONABLE TO WHAT EXTENT THOSE PROBLEMS CAN BE OVERCOME GIVEN PRESENT STATE OF US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS. OUR COOPERATIVE EFFORT SO FAR HAS BEEN ALHST EXCLUSIVELY WITH BULGARIAN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES, WHOSE ROLE--ORGANIZATIONALLY AND DE FACTO-- IN FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION IS UNCLEAR. CONSIDERING SENSITIVITY THAT SURROUNDS POLICE HERE, ANY INITIATIVES FROM OUR SIDE TO PROMOTE FURTHER COOPERATION COULD BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND THEN ONLY WITH THE UTMOST CAUTION.
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